

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Office Action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 23 and 27 to 34 are in the application.

The present invention is directed to an optical faceplate which protects photosensitive material against high light levels. The pseudo fiber optic faceplate of the invention optically acts like a solid window at acceptable light levels but either attenuates or diffuses the light at higher light levels which could be injurious to the photosensitive material. A non-linear optical material is used which has the property of changing at least one of its index of refraction and optical transmission as a function of inputted light.

The claims stand rejected as being obvious over the admitted prior art in view of Cryan et al. (U.S. 6,487,351) under 35 U.S.C. 103. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cryan is directed to a fiber optic faceplate in which the position of the fibers is arranged to correspond to the pixel position of sources and detectors. There is no disclosure of the fibers changing their properties as a function of light amplitude.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an optical faceplate having a plurality of first members which are surrounded by second members wherein the first members are of a material having the property of changing at least one of its index of refraction and optical transmission as a function of received light amplitude.

Cryan does not disclose or suggest any structure utilizing such a material. Cryan is concerned with the positional interrelationship between sources, detectors, and fibers, not with protection against high light amplitudes. Thus, the combination of the admitted prior art and the Cryan patent does not render claim 1 or its dependent claims obvious.

Independent claim 6 recites a faceplate having fiber optics utilizing non-linear optical material having the property of changing its index of refraction as a function of light amplitude. Cryan does not disclose or suggest fibers which change their index of refraction as a function of light amplitude. Additionally, claim 6 recites fibers having cladding and core of materials

having the same index of refraction at normal light levels usually cladding and core have different indices of refraction). Hence, the combination of the admitted prior art and Cryan does not render claim 6 or the claims dependent therefrom obvious.

Independent claim 9 is directed to a faceplate having fiber optic bundle means for optically acting like a solid window at normal light levels, but for at least one of attenuating or diffusing a light spot inputted thereto at light levels above a predetermined threshold level.

Cryan does not disclose a fiber optic bundle means which optically acts like a solid window at normal light levels. Cryan discloses a fiber optic bundle means which optically acts like fiber optics at normal light levels. Cryan also does not disclose fiber optic bundle means which attenuates or diffuses light above a threshold level. Hence, the combination of the admitted prior art and Cryan does not render claim 9 or the claims dependent thereon obvious.

Independent claim 14 is directed to an image intensifier tube including a faceplate having fibers comprised of cladding having a first index of refraction and a core having an index of refraction which is the same as the first index of refraction at normal light levels. Cryan does not disclose or suggest fiber optics wherein core and cladding are the same index of refraction. In the prior art, core and cladding are usually of different indices of refraction. In the present invention, they are the same at normal light levels, so the device acts like a solid window at normal light levels. Thus, the combination of the admitted prior art and Cryan does not render claim 14 or the claims dependent thereon obvious.

Independent claim 27 is directed to a method of making an assembly comprising a composite pseudo fiber optic faceplate and photocathode including the steps of providing fiber optics having cladding and core, etching the core away, and replacing the core with a replacement optical material. The Cryan patent does not disclose or suggest etching the core of a fiber optic away and replacing it with a replacement material. Hence, the combination of the admitted prior art and Cryan does not render claim 27 nor the claims dependent thereon obvious.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims presently in the application are

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allowable. Hence, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of the application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Abramson", written over a horizontal line.

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